

Center investigators published 116 peer-reviewed articles in the past year. These include articles by core investigators, as well as by affiliate investigators (articles by the latter are related to Center projects only). In addition, our staff made 104 presentations.

A number of published articles by Center investigators received publicity in the lay press this past year, including the following:

Fagerlin A, Schneider CE. Enough: the failure of the living will. *Hastings Center Report* 2004; 34(2): 30-42. This paper received significant media coverage (including NPR, *USA Today*, AP, AARP, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Prevention Magazine*) and the Hastings Center received more responses to this article than to any other previously published article in their *Report*.

Heisler M, Langa KM, Eby EI, Fendrick AM, Kabeto MU, Piette JD. The health effects of restricting prescription medication use because of cost. *Medical Care* 2004; 42:626-634. (*The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, Scripps-Howard News Service, the Ivanhoe news service, Healthday, Yahoo!News, WebMD's consumer news wire, UPI newswire, et al.)

Kerr EA, Gerzoff RB, Krein SL, Selby JV, Piette JD, Curb JD, et al. Diabetes care quality in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System and commercial managed care: the TRIAD study. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2004; 141:272-281. (*Washington Post*, *Chicago Sun Times*, Reuters, Yahoo News, ABC News, and many other city newspapers.)

Kerr EA, McGlynn EA, Adams J, Keesey J, Asch SM. Profiling the quality of care in twelve communities: results from the CQI study. *Health Affairs* 2004; 23:247-256. (*USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, local papers in nine of the study communities, a live *washingtonpost.com* chat, a story on National Public Radio, plus other newspaper and wire stories.)

Langa KM, Valenstein MA, Fendrick AM, Kabeto MU, Vijan S. Extent and cost of informal caregiving for older Americans with symptoms of depression. *American Journal of Psychiatry* 2004; 161:857-863. (*Psychiatric News*, HealthandAge.com, Medscape, HealthDay newswire, Yahoo!News, drkoop.com, et al.)

Piette JD, Heisler M, Wagner TH. Problems paying out-of-pocket medication costs among older adults with diabetes. *Diabetes Care* 2004; 27:384-391. (*The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, Scripps Howard, UPI, Ivanhoe Medical News, et al.)

Piette JD, Heisler M, Wagner TH. Cost-related medication under-use: do patients with chronic illnesses tell their doctors? *Archives of Internal Medicine* 2004; 164:1749-1755. (*The Los Angeles Times*, *Modern Healthcare*, HealthDay, the *Detroit News*, American Medical News, et al.)

Underwood W, DeMonner S, Ubel P, Fagerlin A, Sanda MG, Wei JT. Racial/ethnic disparities in the treatment of localized/regional prostate cancer. *Journal of Urology* 2004; 171:1504-1507. (Numerous news and health care sites on the Web, including Yahoo!News, HealthDay, Ivanhoe, drkoop, and many other city TV and newspaper sites.)

Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Roberts TR, Fagerlin A, Derry HA, Ubel PA. Highlighting "additional risk" yields more consistent interpretations of side effect risk communications. Paper accepted for presentation at the Society for Medical Decision Making, Atlanta, GA, October 2004. This paper was ranked in the Top 6 submissions and will be presented at the plenary abstract session.

Ken Langa presented findings from his work with the Health and Retirement Study at a congressional briefing for the House of Representatives on the future viability of Social Security and Medicare (July 14, 2004).

Our dissemination activities also include a semi-annual newsletter and our Web site: www.va.gov/annarbor-hsrd. The Web site includes separate pages for QUERI-DM and SMITREC. Our Program for Improving Health Care Decisions also has a Web site: www.med.umich.edu/pihcd/.

Center staff have also provided consultative assistance to national committees and VA Central Office on several major projects, whose findings reach a wide audience within VHA:

- Julie Lowery, PhD, and Jennifer Davis, MHSA, provided staffing and productivity analyses for VA Nuclear Medicine Service. These analyses, which are conducted each year, have become part of the Veterans Health Administration Nuclear Medicine/Imaging/Diagnostic Services Procedural Handbook. They are conducting similar analyses for two national committees to determine staffing requirements for registered dietitians in VA medical centers and for physician staffing in VA nursing homes.
- SMITREC staff maintain the National Psychosis and Depression Registries for VHA.
- SMITREC staff collaborated with the VA Office of Quality and Performance to develop a performance monitor, patterned on a HEDIS measure, that evaluates VA treatment of new episodes of depression.
- SMITREC staff prepared a report for Central Office on mental health care utilization, by diagnosis, in VHA CBOC's for FY'03.